

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method of making a microporous breathable film comprising the steps of:

selecting a film forming a polyolefin precursor, said polyolefin precursor having polypropylene as a majority component;

blending said film forming polyolefin precursor with a filler which is a rigid material having a low affinity for the polyolefin precursor and a lower elasticity than the polyolefin precursor, and having a non-smooth hydrophobic surface such that the filler is about 30% to about 70% of the combined weight of the filler and the polyolefin precursor;

combining said polyolefin precursor/filler blend with an additive selected from a group including a plastomer, an elastomer, a styrenic block copolymer or a combination thereof, wherein said additive has a melt flow index ranging from about 0.8 to about 40 g/10 minutes; and

stretching the combination of said blended polyolefin/filler blend with an additive to form a microporous breathable film having a dart impact strength in the range of from about 100 to about 300 grams,

wherein said film has a WVTR in the range of from about ~~100~~1000 to about 10,000 g/m²/24 hr, and wherein said film has an MD or TD elongation in the range of from about 150% to about 550%.

10. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 9 wherein said step of stretching the combination uses interdigitating grooved rollers.

11. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10 wherein said interdigitating grooved rollers are positioned in a direction selected from the group consisting of machine direction (MD), transverse direction (TD), and a combination thereof.

12. (Original) The process as defined in Claim 9 wherein said film forming polyolefin precursor is selected from the group consisting of an impact copolymer polypropylene, a random copolymer polypropylene, and a combination thereof.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 10 further including the step of heat laminating the microporous breathable film having polypropylene as a major component of the polyolefin precursor to a non-woven having polypropylene as a majority component a precursor polyolefin used to form the non-woven.

15. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 14 further including the step of forming said combinations of microporous breathable film and non-woven polymer into an article selected from the group consisting of diapers, adult incontinence devices, feminine hygiene articles, surgical garments, surgical drapes, sportswear, industrial apparel, house wrap, filtration media, roofing components, and controlled atmosphere packaging.

16. (Currently amended) A method of making a microporous breathable film comprising the steps of:

selecting a film forming a polyolefin precursor, said polyolefin precursor having polypropylene as a majority component;

blending said film forming polyolefin precursor with a filler which is a rigid material having a low affinity for the polyolefin precursor and a lower elasticity than the polyolefin precursor, and having a non-smooth hydrophobic surface such that the filler is about 30% to about 70% of the combined weight of the filler and the polyolefin precursor;

combining said polyolefin precursor/filler blend with an additive selected from a group including a plastomer, an elastomer, a styrenic block copolymer or a combination thereof, wherein said additive has a melt flow index ranging from about 0.8 to about 40 g/10 minutes; and

stretching the combination of said blended polyolefin/filler blend and said additive to form a microporous breathable film having a dart impact strength greater than about 210 grams; and

wherein said film has a WVTR in the range of from about ~~400~~1000 to about 10,000 g/m²/24 hr.

17. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 16 wherein said step of stretching the combination uses interdigitating grooved rollers.

18. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 17 wherein said interdigitating grooved rollers are positioned in a direction selected from the group consisting of machine direction (MD), transverse direction (TD), and a combination thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The process as defined in Claim 16 wherein said film forming polyolefin precursor is selected from the group consisting of an impact copolymer polypropylene, a random copolymer polypropylene, and a combination thereof.

20. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 17 further including the step of heat laminating the microporous breathable film having polypropylene as a major component of the polyolefin precursor to a non-woven having polypropylene as a majority component a precursor polyolefin used to form the non-woven.

21. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 20 further including the step of forming said combinations of microporous breathable film and non-woven polymer into an article selected from the group consisting of diapers, adult incontinence devices, feminine hygiene articles, surgical garments, surgical drapes, sportswear, industrial apparel, house wrap, filtration media, roofing components, and controlled atmosphere packaging.

22. (Previously presented) A method of making a microporous breathable film comprising the steps of:

selecting a film forming a polyolefin precursor, said polyolefin precursor having polypropylene as a majority component;

blending said film forming polyolefin precursor with a filler which is a rigid material having a low affinity for the polyolefin precursor and a lower elasticity than the polyolefin precursor, and having a non-smooth hydrophobic surface such that the filler is about 30% to about 70% of the combined weight of the filler and the polyolefin precursor;

combining said polyolefin precursor/filler blend with an additive in its solid state selected from a group including a plastomer, an elastomer, a styrenic block copolymer or a combination thereof; and

wherein said film has a WVTR greater than $1000 \text{ g/m}^2/24 \text{ hr}$; and

wherein said film has an MD or TD elongation in the range of from about 150% to about 550%.

23. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 22 wherein said step of stretching the combination uses interdigitating grooved rollers.

24. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 23 wherein said interdigitating grooved rollers are positioned in a direction selected from the group consisting of machine direction (MD), transverse direction (TD), and a combination thereof.

25. (Previously presented) The process as defined in Claim 22 wherein said film forming polyolefin precursor is selected from the group consisting of an impact copolymer polypropylene, a random copolymer polypropylene, and a combination thereof.

26. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 23 further including the step of heat laminating the microporous breathable film having polypropylene as a major component of the polyolefin precursor to a non-woven having polypropylene as a majority component a precursor polyolefin used to form the non-woven.

27. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 26 further including the step of forming said combinations of microporous breathable film and non-woven polymer into an article selected from the group consisting of diapers, adult incontinence devices, feminine hygiene articles, surgical garments, surgical drapes, sportswear, industrial apparel, house wrap, filtration media, roofing components, and controlled atmosphere packaging.

Claims 28-33 (Cancelled).